



# Howard County

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## *Internal Memorandum*

**Subject:** Testimony for Council Resolutions \_\_\_\_-2011  
Guidelines for the 2030 General Plan

**To:** Lonnie Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director *mm*  
Department of Planning and Zoning

**Date:** June 23, 2011

Howard County undertakes a review and update of the General Plan about once every decade. Since General Plans typically look 20 years into the future, the ten-year update comes at the mid-point in the planning timeframe, which then becomes a new starting point for the next 20-year General Plan.

Howard County Charter and Code set out the parameters for updating the General Plan. Together these require that the planning process obtain public input in two phases. The first phase involves the development of "General Plan Guidelines" to direct drafting of the plan. The second phase is the preparation and adoption of the plan itself.

Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets parameters for comprehensive planning by local jurisdictions. Local plans must address the State's adopted "Smart Growth" visions. These twelve visions set broad State goals related to: quality of life and sustainability; public participation; growth areas; community design; infrastructure; transportation; housing; economic development; environmental protection; resource conservation; stewardship; and implementation.

On May 26, 2011, the Planning Board moved to approve the proposed draft *Guidelines for the 2030 General Plan* with amendments which were integrated into the document and are attached here for the County Council's review and adoption.

### ***Fiscal Impact***

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with adoption of this Council Resolution.

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**cc:** Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff  
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